



Branson Briefs

A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about activities, projects and events in the City of Branson

Volume 3, Issue 8

August 2011

City Hall
110 W. Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-3345
417-334-6095 fax
www.bransonmo.gov

Hours
8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Mayor
Raeanne Presley

Board of Aldermen
Cris Bohinc
Mike Booth
Rick Davis
Patrick Parnell
Bob Simmons
Rick Todd

City Administrator
Dean Kruithof

**Board of Aldermen
meeting schedule**
2nd & 4th Tuesday
of each month
7 p.m.
Council Chambers

**Shepherd's Summer
Cruise**
August 13 at Midnight
**Shepherd of the Hills
Expressway**



City purchases old high school

The city has purchased the old Branson High School at 300 6th St. from the Branson School District. Cost to the city was \$200,000 spread out over three years. The 55-year old building has not been used by the school district for the past three years. While the city has no immediate plans for the property, city officials will work on its redevelopment in a way that will benefit the center city neighborhood.

To get some professional guidance in redeveloping the property, city officials applied for and received a grant from the American Institute of Architects allowing a team of architects to look at the building as well as the surrounding neighborhood to determine the best use of the property for Branson's future.

Skaggs to continue fitness center at RecPlex

Skaggs Regional Medical Center will continue to operate the fitness center at the Branson RecPlex. The city and Skaggs approved another five-year contract. Since the RecPlex opened in 2005, Skaggs has been leasing space on the upper level for a state-of-the-art fitness center.



City Hall to get energy make-over

City has entered a contract with Burns & McDonnell of Kansas City for a \$1 million project to make City Hall and the convention center more energy efficient. While the city will borrow for this project, it's expected the energy savings will pay off the loan. Furthermore, the city is compensated if energy cost savings are less than the amount guaranteed by Burns & McDonnell. City Hall improvements include more efficient motors in the ventilating system; changes to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning and lighting upgrades. Installation of an ozone system in the convention center's laundry will let washers use cold instead of hot water. The upgrades are expected to realize \$34,000 in energy savings yearly.

Fall Citizens Academy starts Sep. 8

Branson residents can learn more about the workings of city government by signing up for the next Citizens Academy that begins Thursday, September 8. The Academy is an eight-week session designed to provide citizens with a close up view of all facets of city government – from emergency services and health inspections to the business of water and budgeting your tax dollars. Citizens can register now by contacting Jerry Adams, public information director for the city of Branson, at 417-337-8526 or e-mail jadams@bransonmo.gov.



Taneycomo Bridge ahead of schedule

The \$12 million Taneycomo Bridge restoration project continues ahead of schedule with the bridge likely to reopen to traffic by Thanksgiving, according to MoDOT officials. MoDOT says the bridge is about 50-percent complete. When finished, MoDOT plans an official opening of the bridge with a ribbon cutting and classic cars taking the first ride across.

City employees join in Caring Day

Seventeen city of Branson employees, including Mayor Raeanne Presley, joined more than 200 volunteers from businesses throughout the Tri-lakes Area to participate in the 14th annual Community Caring Day on August 4. The employees were assigned to Mountain Country Homes of Hope where they constructed a handicapped accessible ramp, replaced a bathroom sub-floor, and repaired a screened-in porch.



Tim Glenn (left) with
Alderman Rick Davis

City Employee of the Month

Tim Glenn, wastewater plant operator with the utilities department, was named Branson's Employee of the Month for July. Tim was recognized for his outstanding work ethic and continuous positive attitude on the job. When the workload at the plants increased, Tim showed the ability to handle multiple tasks, and his coworkers know they can depend on him to work side-by-side when necessary no matter what the situation. Tim also played a key role with the Compton Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion by keeping in constant communication with contractors to coordinate the construction as well as the ongoing operation of the plant. A real asset to the utilities department.

Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website www.bransonmo.gov.

Branson Recycle Center 601 Compton Dr

Hours

Mon- Sat 7:30 am to 1pm

Thur. 7:30 am to 6 pm

Upcoming downtown Branson events

**August 26—29
Fiddle Festival**

**September 16-17
Autumn Daze**

Branson Public Schools begin classes Thursday August 18

Diverging diamond interchange on schedule

Motorists need to use caution and obey traffic signs at the U.S. 65 and MO 248 intersection. Work continues there to construct a diverging diamond interchange that's expected to be done in December.

Under the diverging diamond design, the opposing lanes of MO 248 will criss-cross at traffic signals at the ends of the bridge over U.S. 65. Crossing the bridge, oncoming traffic will be on the right rather than left lane. This interchange will provide left turning vehicles on MO 248 a "free left" onto U.S. 65.

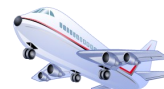
City sees spike in sales tax

Branson's sales tax revenues are rising. Sales tax revenue received in July for activity in May was up 7-percent, and for the year, the sales tax is 1-percent ahead of 2010. The sales tax is on track with city officials' projection of a 1-percent increase in sales tax revenue for 2011.

The tourism tax on restaurants, lodging and ticketed attractions including theaters is down 3-percent for the year.

Frontier adds another flight to Denver

Frontier Airlines is adding another Friday non-stop Branson to Denver flight starting September 9. The new flight will leave Denver at 3:15 p.m. and arrive in Branson just after 6 p.m. — then depart the airport at 6:45 and arrive back in Denver around 8. For more information, go to www.flybranson.com.



Branson man honored for saving neighbor's life



(Left to right) Judy Caviness, Matt Hayes and Mayor Raeanne Presley

Matt Hayes received a special Lifesaver Award for saving the life of his neighbor who suffered cardiac arrest in her yard last month. The award was presented to Hayes by Branson Mayor Raeanne Presley during a Board of Aldermen meeting June 26. Hayes noticed that neighbor Judy Caviness had collapsed. Checking her vital signs, he noticed she had no pulse and not breathing. He called 911 and then started chest compressions known as "Hands Only CPR."

Once emergency crews arrived, they took over life-saving efforts and rushed Ms. Caviness to the hospital where she recovered.

More places to recycle in the area

Recycling kiosks are now available 24/7 at Country Mart grocery stores in Branson, Hollister and Branson West that give shoppers a convenient and rewarding way to recycle their bottles and cans. The interactive Dream Machine kiosks accept aluminum cans and plastic bottles and allow users to earn points. Points are redeemed online at www.greenopolis.com for local discounts on dining, travel, entertainment or even for charitable donations.

New businesses opening in Branson

Santa's Trains & Things and The Sock Box — 104 N. Commercial
Electric Zipline — 3600 W. Highway 76
Hillbilly Yogurt — 1141 W. Highway 76
Family Pharmacy — 1494 Highway 248 Suite D
Branson Spin City — 3705 W. Highway 76